

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON

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August 25, 1949 *DMW*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Study of Chennault Plan by  
Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In accordance with the enclosed memorandum on the subject by the Under Secretary of State, it is requested that the views of the appropriate agencies of the Department of Defense along the lines set forth in the final paragraph of the enclosure be obtained and furnished the National Security Council.

SIDNEY W. SOUERS  
Executive Secretary

cc: The President  
The Vice President  
The Secretary of State  
The Chairman, National Security  
Resources Board

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
Washington

August 24, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SIDNEY W. SOUERS,  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Subject: Study of Chennault Plan by  
Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In connection with the survey of Far Eastern policy which is now being carried on in the Department of State, it will be necessary to re-examine and to estimate the feasibility and effectiveness of further United States military assistance to non-Communist China. As you know, General Chennault has presented in testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee and in the public press a detailed plan for such assistance which he believes would be both feasible and desirable.

It would be greatly appreciated if the appropriate agencies of the Department of Defense would examine the Chennault Plan with a view to presenting to the National Security Council their judgment as to whether military assistance of the character described by General Chennault could be delivered within sufficient time and in sufficient volume and could be utilized with sufficient effectiveness by the recipients, whether the National Government or provincial authorities, as to be likely to deny to the Communist forces those parts of China still free from their control. Any comments by the Joint Chiefs of Staff concerning the military means which they consider would be necessary to achieve this objective, regardless of whether or not dealt with in the Chennault Plan, would of course be most helpful.

/s/ JAMES E. WEBB

Under Secretary

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